



## King County

# Metropolitan King County Council

### STAFF REPORT

<b>Proposed No.:</b>	2020-0131	<b>Name:</b>	Tillery Williams
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### SUBJECT

Proposed Motion 2020-0131 would request that the King County Council identify and create volunteer opportunities for the general public to assist with responding to the novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") outbreak in King County.

### SUMMARY

Proposed Motion 2020-0131 would request the King County Council, while consulting with the executive branch where appropriate, to engage in a COVID-19 Action and Response Enlistment (CARE) initiative to identify and create volunteer opportunities for the general public to assist their communities and King County in response to the "COVID-19" outbreak.

The motion would also direct council staff to provide a verbal report to the council within 14 days and a written report within 21 days of the effective date.

### BACKGROUND

The novel coronavirus, COVID-19, first appeared in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. Subsequently, the first case of COVID-19 identified in the United States occurred in January in a Snohomish County resident who had traveled to China.<sup>1</sup> Seattle-Tacoma International Airport was one of eleven airports in the United States to receive and process travelers from the region where the COVID-19 outbreak originated. As a result of this emerging issue, Public Health - Seattle & King County activated the Public Health Departmental Emergency Operations Center on January 21, 2020 in preparation for a significant public health emergency that could be caused by COVID-19 in the area.

Confirmed cases of COVID-19 have since spread through community transmission in Snohomish and King Counties at a rapid pace. According to Seattle's Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, the number of COVID-19 cases are likely to double every six days.<sup>2</sup> Washington State Governor Jay Inslee declared a state of emergency for Washington in response to the increased cases of COVID-19 on February 29, 2020. On March 1, 2020, King County Executive Dow Constantine issued a proclamation to allow for the County to quickly respond to new demands of service caused by COVID-19.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa2001191>. Accessed March 16, 2020.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/health/new-coronavirus-cases-in-western-washington-are-likely-doubling-every-6-days-fred-hutch-scientist-says/>. Accessed March 16, 2020.

## **ANALYSIS**

This motion, if approved by Council, would enable members of the public, through volunteering, to assist their communities and King County in its emergency response to COVID-19. As part of this process, the motion also requires Council to consult with the executive branch, where appropriate, to create and identify volunteer opportunities for those interested members of the public.

Additionally, the motion would direct Council staff to provide a verbal report to this body on the volunteer opportunities identified and created for the public to assist in the County's response efforts no later than 14 calendar days after the effective date of this motion. Finally, the motion would request Council staff to also send a written report to Council on the volunteer opportunities identified and created no later than 21 calendar days after the effective date of the motion.

Note that 14 calendar days from March 24<sup>th</sup> would be April 7<sup>th</sup>, which is during the Council's scheduled recess – however the motion states that Council staff "should" provide a verbal report within 14 days, so staff would have flexibility to provide the report later if necessary.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

None